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EDITORIALS*

PASADENA ANNUAL SESSION

May California and Western Medicine in Press During the Annual Session.—The May number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE will be printed and mailed a few days after the close of this year's annual session. At the time this is written, we can only speculate concerning the meetings. That they will be fruitful in presentation of scientific achievement may be taken for granted. That the meetings of this session, by those who attend, may be productive of better understanding on many important economic and other problems which are vitally connected with medical practice, is earnestly desired. That a broad outlook on these problems may be taken back to the component societies by their representatives in attendance is likewise devoutly wished.

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Reports of California Medical Association Officers and Committeemen Should Be Read.—In the June number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE will be printed the reports of officers and committees and of the House of Delegates and Council. It is urged that members take the time to glance through those reports. It is to be remembered that while officers may be elected and

* Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Medicine Today column, which follows.

committees be appointed for this, that or the other work, that the efforts of such officers and committeemen will be of little avail, unless supported by a united and alert profession.

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No Members of the Profession Can Claim Exemption from Their Obligations.—No members of the profession should be so self-centered or so self-satisfied as to permit themselves to think that these economic and allied problems which are now so much to the front are simply expressions of nervousness or idle prating. If there be such members, then in good time they will awaken concerning the readjustments taking place in medical practice, unless such members be so blessed with worldly goods that it matters not to them what happens to their profession or to their colleagues.

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The Place of Organized Medicine in Our Present-Day Needs.—It has been stated that when we gather together to hold medical meetings that we are too prone to follow precedent. In other words, that we at times follow old forms of procedure, which in the light of modern demands, need revision or modification. For instance, in other American groups there is not disrespect or pseudo-shame when subjects of economic importance are broached. Why should it be so in the profession of medicine? Are we not, all of us, obliged to earn our daily bread? If we receive not sufficient compensation in money for services honestly and efficiently rendered, can we maintain our professional existences and our families in the manner which we have a right to expect, when the money and effort in acquiring that knowledge and ability to practice the profession of medicine are taken into consideration? The fact that because as a class we are so tolerant of lack of appreciation by others of what we do that is praiseworthy, only makes our profession and ourselves as individuals, targets for cold-blooded exploitation by designing persons, both without and within our guild.

To our profession, to our families, to ourselves, and to the public, we do an injustice when we sit indifferently by, while the structure of ethical and scientific practice that has been erected by the generous and altruistic endeavors of a host of our fellows in the days gone by, is subjected to onslaught by designing organizations and individuals. It is not to our credit when we permit ourselves to lapse into mental lethargy in these matters.

Because state and county medical society and hospital staff and group meetings keep us alert in matters affecting our professional and economic welfare, these organizations are all of value to us. All of us need association with these coöperative expressions of group endeavor. Not one of us need think he has reached such heights in the profession, to have the right to remain aloof. Rather, the higher our positions and the greater our influence, the more are the responsibilities to which